



**Montana Department of Corrections**  
**FACT SHEET**  
**HOUSE BILL 70 cost breakdown**

SENATE JUDICIARY

EXHIBIT NO. 2

DATE 2/15/13

BILL NO. HB 70

Narrative

A Victim Impact Panel (VIP) presented by community volunteers is the finale for offenders who successfully complete a 12- to 16-hour victim impact curriculum taught by facility staff. This prerequisite is critical because it introduces offenders to the ripple effects of crime on their victims, their own families and their communities. This understanding prepares offenders emotionally and cognitively for the VIP and creates a safer atmosphere for the victims.

Stand-alone VIPs (no prerequisite curriculum for offenders) are inappropriate for all participants, particularly victims, and would not meet the DOC mission or conform to best practices established by the U.S. Department of Justice.

The victim impact curriculum and VIP together constitute a victim impact program.

Great Falls Prerelease Center, Helena Prerelease Center and Elkhorn Treatment Center, a women's drug treatment program in Boulder, currently have victim impact programs.

House Bill 70, as amended, mandates that Elkhorn and two prerelease centers continue their programs, and that programs be added in the five prerelease centers in Missoula, Butte, Bozeman and Billings, and at the Nexus drug treatment center for men in Lewistown. Thus a total of nine programs would be funded by the HB70 appropriation.

NOTE: Treasure State Correctional Training Center (boot camp) pioneered a victim impact program in 1997, which serves as a model for others, and Montana Women's Prison began a program in 2011. Their budgets are not included in this appropriation request.

Based on the averages detailed below, the cost for each offender to participate a victim impact program is about \$62. This is based on a total of 36 victim impact classes (curricula) in nine facilities attended by an estimated 700 offenders at a cost of \$43,200.

(over)

Estimated costs

The following cost breakdown is based on averages and salary and benefits for the facility offender victim impact curriculum instructor, volunteer victim speaker compensation, and class materials.

Instructor time at \$40/hour for salary and benefits:

Offender victim impact curriculum: 12 hours

Prep time for classes and VIP: 5 hours

Victim Impact Panel: 4 hours

21 hours @\$40/hour \$ 840

Materials:

\$ 45

Volunteer speaker costs:

Mileage (3 speakers @ 100 miles x \$.55/mile) \$ 165

Stipend (\$50 per speaker) \$ 150

\$ 315

Cost for each victim impact program \$ 1,200

Cost for 36 victim impact classes with VIPs \$43,200

Victim Services FTE to coordinate program \$47,349

**TOTAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST \$97,049**

2013 Legislature  
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